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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/821,963	04/12/2004	Hiroya Kumashio	251606US-2CONT	2374
22850 7590 09/24/2007 OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			EXAMINER NGUYEN, MERILYN P	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2163	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			09/24/2007	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/821,963

Applicant(s)

KUMASHIO, HIROYA

Examiner

Marilyn P. Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING-DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 July 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 January 2007 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/632,212.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Detailed Action</u> . |

DETAILED ACTION

1. In response to the communication dated 07/05/2007, claims 1-19 are pending in this action as the result of the addition of claim 19.
2. This application is a continuation of 09/632,212 (patent number 6,782,387). This application claims the priorities of Japanese Application No. 2000-229571 filed July 28, 2000, 11-353718 filed December 13, 1999, and 11-224015 filed August 06, 1999.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

3. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 06/19/2007 has been entered.

Claim Objections

4. Claim 11 is objected to because of the following informalities: At line 5, "a means" is suggested to changed to --a plurality of means-- or --means--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

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5. Claims 1-10 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 1, there is insufficient antecedent basis for "said user interface".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claim 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sziklai (US 6,341,287).

Regarding claims 1, 9 and 11, Sziklai discloses an integrating document management system for managing access to documents distributed over a computer network, an information processing apparatus and a computer-readable recording medium including programs recorded therein comprising: a plurality of connecting parts configured to interface between a user interface part and a plurality of data processing parts (See col. 15, lines 48-51 and col. 29, lines 19-30), the connecting parts configured to implement common document management operations upon a plurality of different databases (See col. 17, line 9 to col. 22, line 20 and fig. 8-10, wherein different databases are for example product stewardship and Hazardous Materials and Waste), wherein each connecting part includes an interface that corresponds to a respective

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one of the databases and a common interface (integrated user interface) that corresponds to the user interface part (See col. 11, lines 2-7, 56-67 and col. 15, lines 60-65, Figs. 8 and 9 shows example of connecting to product stewardship database which having a respective interface), such that the plurality of different databases can be managed using said user interface (See Fig. 10 and 11).

Regarding claims 2, 10 and 12, Sziklai discloses the plurality of databases (See col. 8, lines 25-27), wherein the data processing parts are configured to process data of the respective ones of the databases (See col. 17, line 9 to col. 22, line 20), and wherein the user interface part is configured to provide an interface for a user (See col. 11, lines 2-5).

Regarding claims 3 and 13, Sziklai discloses a display part configured to display data that regarding the plurality of databases (See Fig. 8); and an instructing part configured to allow the user to give processing instructions for data of the databases (See Fig. 8).

Regarding claims 4 and 14, Sziklai discloses wherein each of the connecting parts include a standardized interface configured to communicate with the user interface part (See Fig. 8 and col. 11, lines 56-67).

Regarding claims 5 and 15, Sziklai discloses wherein the user interface part performs connection and disconnection of the connecting parts (See col. 29, lines 19-30).

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Regarding claims 6 and 16, Sziklai discloses wherein the user interface part obtains information from the connecting parts that indicates whether or not processing instructions are supported or allowed by the respective ones of the databases (See Fig. 8, “you are now connected to product stewardship”).

Regarding claims 7 and 17, Sziklai discloses wherein the user interface part uses graphic items that represent data stored the databases (See Fig. 8, icons).

Regarding claims 8 and 18, Sziklai discloses wherein the user interface part obtains graphic data used to display the graphic items from the connecting parts (See Fig. 9).

Regarding claim 9, Sziklai discloses wherein each connecting part comprises an instruction interpreting part and an instruction translating part that are configured based on each corresponding database (See Fig. 8-19 and col. 24, line 16 to col. 29, line 15).

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed 06/19/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Applicants argue that Sziklai “fails to disclose a plurality of connecting parts configured to interface between a user interface part and a plurality of data processing parts, wherein each connecting part includes (1) an interface that corresponds to a respective one of the

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plurality of databases, and (2) a common interface that corresponds to the user interface part, as recited in Claim 1”.

In response, the Examiner respectfully disagrees. Sziklai teaches a plurality of connecting parts configured to interface between a user interface part and a plurality of data processing parts (See col. 15, lines 48-51 and col. 29, lines 19-30), wherein each connecting part includes (1) an interface that corresponds to a respective one of the plurality of databases, and (2) a common interface (integrated user interface) that corresponds to the user interface part (See col. 11, lines 2-7, 56-67 and col. 15, lines 60-65, Figs. 8-19). For example, each of Figures 8-17 provide connections to respective one of plurality of databases (“product stewardship”, “Hazardous Materials and Waste”, for examples).


Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marilyn P Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-4026.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on 571-272-1834. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 571-273-8300 for regular communications and 703-746-7240 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

MN
September 15, 2007

9/16/07

Hong Vy
For SPT DON WONG